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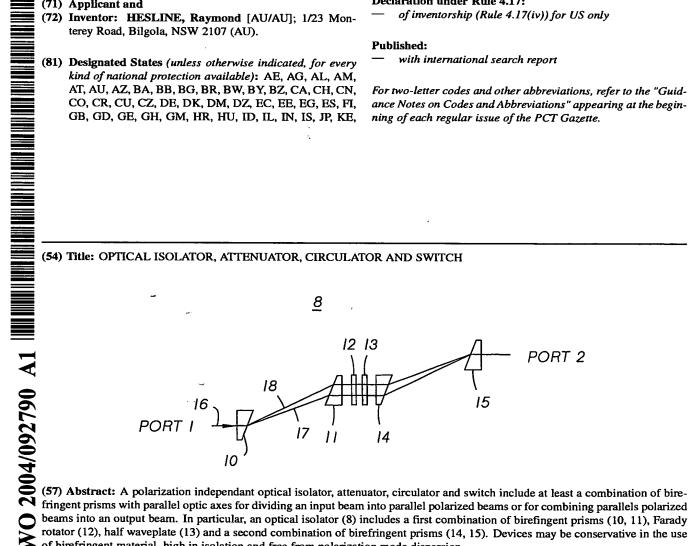
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beams into an output beam. In particular, an optical isolator (8) includes a first combination of birefingent prisms (10, 11), Farady rotator (12), half waveplate (13) and a second combination of birefringent prisms (14, 15). Devices may be conservative in the use of birefringent material, high in isolation and free from polarization mode dispersion.